

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

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### **NA01.02 CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY**

#### **PROGRAM DESCRIPTION**

The Citizens' Review Board for Children (CRBC) program is mandated by Sections 5-535 through 5-549 of the Family Law Article to review the cases of all children in out-of-home placement under DHR in accordance with local plans approved by the Secretary and the State Board in order to determine what efforts are being made to achieve a stable, permanent home for each child; report to juvenile courts on the status of efforts to secure permanent homes for these children; and report annually to the General Assembly on the status of children in out-of-home placement.

Chapters 355 and 356 of the Acts of 1999 authorized the State Board to examine the policies and procedures of State and local agencies and specific cases in order to evaluate their effectiveness in discharging their child protection responsibilities. The Board must issue an annual report and to coordinate its efforts with the State Council on Child Abuse and Neglect, the State Child Fatality Review Team, and local citizen review panels

#### **MISSION**

By monitoring child welfare programs and reviewing cases of children in the system, volunteer reviewers are able to make recommendations and advocate to improve the administration of the system and the management of individual cases. As a result, children will be safe; be placed in stable, permanent living arrangements without undue delay; enjoy continuity of relationships; and have the opportunity to develop to their full potential.

#### **VISION**

The child welfare community, General Assembly, other key decision-makers, and the public will look to CRBC for objective reports on vital child welfare programs and for consistent monitoring of safeguards for children. The State of Maryland will investigate child maltreatment allegations thoroughly, protect children from abuse and neglect, give families the help they need to stay intact, place children in out-of-home care only when necessary, and provide placements which meet the needs of the whole child. Casework will combine effective reunification services with expeditious permanent placement of the child.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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### NA01.02 CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (Continued)

#### KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**Goal 1** To conduct high quality case and system reviews, make meaningful recommendations, and effectively present the recommendations to decision-makers.

**Objective 1.1** During Fiscal Year 2003, twenty-four jurisdictions will have panels/teams trained to complete individual case reviews for children under Child Protective Services.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Quality:</b> Number of local review panels/teams trained by CRBC to complete case reviews.	NA	2	14	24

**Objective 1.2** During Fiscal Year 2003, CRBC will provide 2,514 hours of pre-service and in-service training to board and panel members with information on applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures pertaining to children in out-of-home placement and child welfare.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual <sup>1</sup>	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Quality:</b> Number of hours of pre-service and in-service training hours provided to board and panel members	** <sup>2</sup>	1885	2716	2514

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<sup>1</sup> During Fiscal Year 2000, training was only provided to board members; panels had not been developed

<sup>2</sup> During Fiscal Year 2000, pre-service and in-service training was tracked by number of sessions rather than number of training hours

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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### NA01.02 CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (Continued)

#### KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**Objective 1.4** During Fiscal Year 2003, board and panel members will recommend and advocate for improvement in the child welfare system by meeting with key decision-makers.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Output:</b> Number of meetings between board/panel members and child welfare/protection agency officials to discuss findings and recommendations for system improvement	*	53	63	87
<b>Output:</b> Number of legislators who receive a face-to-face presentation from board/panel members about CRBC's findings and recommendations for system improvement.	*	77	77	95
<b>Output:</b> Number of bill and budget testimonies written or delivered by CRBC's legislative committee.	*	20	15	15

**Note:** \*New measures for which data are not available for Fiscal Year 2000

**Goal 2** To provide useful information about whether State and local child protection agencies investigate child abuse and neglect allegations thoroughly.

**Objective 2.1** During fiscal year 2003, local case review teams or panels will complete case reviews for cases under Child Protective Services resulting in a state-wide total of 100 reviews completed

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Outputs:</b> State-wide total number of Child Protective Service cases reviewed by case review panel/teams	NA	0	38	100

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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### NA01.02 CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (Continued)

#### KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**Goal 3** To provide useful information about whether State and local child protection agencies keep children safe and give families the help they need to stay intact.

**Objective 3.1** By June 30, 2003, the State Board will issue a public annual report evaluating the extent to which state and local child protection agencies are effectively discharging their responsibilities.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Output:</b> Number of copies of annual Reports on child protection Services distributed	NA	1027	1300	1500

**Goal 4** Citizen Reviews are coordinated with court reviews and DSS internal case reviews so that children in out-of-home placement receive timely periodic reviews according to applicable laws and regulations.

**Objective 4.1** During fiscal 2003, the CRBC Information System will be able to report compliance with Federal requirements for periodic administrative reviews for at least 90% of the children in out-of-home placement eligible for a review during the fiscal year<sup>3</sup>.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Output:</b> Proportion of children in Placement for whom Federal Administrative review Requirements are met.	59.8%	81.8%	86%	90%

**Objective 4.2** During fiscal 2002, CRBC local boards will complete 8,800 case reviews on children in out-of-home care.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Output:</b> Number of out-of home cases reviewed by local boards. <sup>4</sup>	7,959	8,339	8,575	8,800

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<sup>3</sup> 90% is the standard established by the Federal Child and Family Services Review.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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### NA01.02 CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (Continued)

#### KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**Goal 5** Recommendations from CRBC regarding permanency planning, placement, and safety are provided to the local departments of social services and the Maryland Judiciary System.

**Objective 5.1** During fiscal 2003, 80% of case recommendations will be completed by the mandated deadline of 15 working days.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Quality:</b> Proportion of case recommendation reports completed on time.	26%	35%	50%	80%

**Objective 5.2** During fiscal 2003, each local department of social services will receive a monthly report showing the level of compliance with the citizen review requirement to respond in writing to case recommendation reports within 10 working days of receipt.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Output:</b> Number of monthly reports provided to local departments of social services on compliance with CRBC requirements.	0	0	78 <sup>5</sup>	188

**Objective 5.3** During Fiscal Year 2003, 8 jurisdictional assessment reports will be completed and disseminated to the local departments of social services, the local courts, and the public.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Output:</b> Number of jurisdictional assessments completed.	0	0	6	8

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<sup>4</sup> During Fiscal Year 2001, CRBC reviewed 49.5% of the eligible children in out-of-home placement. Budgetary constraints prohibit us from reviewing 100% of the children.

<sup>5</sup> Monthly compliance reports will start in February 2002

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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### NA01.02 CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (Continued)

#### KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**Objective 5.4** The Annual Report on the out-of-home care system for fiscal year 2003 will be delivered to the General Assembly by January 1, 2004, and disseminated to interested parties.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2002 Estimate
<b>Output:</b> Number of copies of annual report on out-of-care distributed.	0	2137 <sup>6</sup>	1300	1500

**Goal 6** Permanency planning practice combines effective reunification services with dedication to expeditious permanent placement of the child.

**Objective 6.1** During fiscal 2003, CRBC will report on the proportion of children leaving out-of-home placement by reason of reunification, relative placement or adoption and include the results in the annual report and the jurisdictional assessments.

Performance Measures	2000 Actual	2001 Actual	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Outcomes:</b> Proportion of children exiting out- of-home care who are reunited with family; whose caretaker is awarded guardianship; or who are legally adopted.	76.8%	80.6%	80%	80%

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<sup>6</sup> The 2001 performance measure for the number of out-of-home annual reports distributed includes reports for 1999 (distribution started in August 2000) and annual reports for 2000.

## DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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### NA01.02 CITIZENS REVIEW BOARD FOR CHILDREN - OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY (Continued)

#### KEY GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND PERFORMANCE MEASURES

**Objective 6.2** CRBC will report on the percentage of children entering out-of-home placement in a given year and exiting with a permanent placement within 12 months, 24 months, and 36 months. The information will be included in the out-of-home placement annual report and jurisdictional assessments.

Performance Measures	1998 Actual	1999 Actual <sup>7</sup>	2000 Actual <sup>8</sup>	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Outcome:</b> Percentage of children entering out-of-home placement in a given year and exiting within indicated interval						
Number Entering	4,972	4,454	4,338	4,057	4,057	4,057
•						
• Within first 12 months	43%	43%	46%	42% (P)	44%	44%
• Within 24 months	15%	14%	18% (P)	16%	18%	16%
• Within 36 months	10%	11% (P)	11% (E)	11%	11%	11%
Percent not leaving within 36 months	32%	32% (P)	25%(E)	31%	30%	30%

**Objective 6.3** CRBC will monitor and report on whether the number of children who re-enter placement in one year as a percentage of those of leave.

Performance Measures	1999 Actual	2000 Actual	2001 Estimate	2002 Estimate	2003 Estimate
<b>Outcome:</b> Percentage of children who re-enter placement within one year of leaving placement.	10.6%	9.9%	10%	10%	10%

<sup>7</sup> Data followed by "P" are projections based on the availability of limited data

<sup>8</sup> Data followed by "E" are estimates

## **DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

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